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Medical examiner wants

By EARL GOLZ

The Dallas County chief medical examiner has called for an autopsy of the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy after being "made aware of certain information which sheds some doubt as to the identity of the individual buried in Rose Hill Cemetery (in Tarrant County) under the name of Lee Harvey Oswald."

The Tarrant County district attorney's office, however, has indicated it would oppose an exhumation unless ordered by the Texas Supreme Court.

The Dallas County medical examiner, Dr. Charles S. Petty, recently obtained Oswald's military dental X-rays from the Navy Reference Department in St. Louis under a Dallas County court of inquest order.

Petty's assistant, Dr. Linda Norton, said Thursday she has conferred with representatives of British lawyer and author H. Michael Eddowes who unsuccessfully sought an exhumation order through state courts in Fort Worth earlier this year.

Eddowes believes the man who came to this country from the Soviet Union in 1962 was not defector Oswald but a Russian spy imposter. He cites the failure of autopsy records of 1963 to show a mastoidectomy scar behind the body's left ear and a measurement of the body 2 inches shorter than Oswald.

A comparison of Oswald's dental X-rays with the teeth of the corpse was never made.

Oswald defected to the Soviet Union in 1959 shortly after he was discharged from the Marines. When he supposedly returned to the United States in 1962 he had married a Russian woman who came with him and bore him two children.

In a letter to Dr. N.S. Peerwani, Tarrant County acting medical examiner, Petty said: "If the body had been buried in Dallas County, I would directly order the body to be exhumed and would conduct an autopsy upon the remains so as to be able to compare known dental records, etc., of Lee Harvey Oswald with the teeth of the body. A positive identification, or nonidentification, should result."

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to exhume Oswald

Petty, who served on the forensic panel of the House Assassinations Committee that ended its term in 1978 finding a probable conspiracy in the death of Kennedy, told Peerwani an exhumation and autopsy at this time "is in the best interest of the public."

Tarrant County Assistant Dist. Atty. Marvin Collins said he "would be tickled to death to cooperate with Dallas County" but only under "an order from a court that has the power to order them to do that (exhumation)."

"But I can't in good conscience ask any salaried civil servant to put his personal future, forever and ever, on the line to make a decision that really is committed to the national government and not to local officials," Collins said.

"The national and international repercussions are vast because H. Michael Eddowes claims the body in that grave is that of a Russian spy. And the man is clearly no nut. The man has done a lot of research on the subject and it's all very interesting."

Jerry Pittman, attorney for Eddowes, said he has contacted a state district judge in Dallas County who is receptive to calling a court of inquiry with subpoena power to order the exhumation by Tarrant County officials.

Lee Harvey Oswald ... Researcher says Russian spy may be buried in his grave.